

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1, as follows:

This application is related to co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial Number 09/703,057, entitled "System And Method For IP Router With an Optical Core," to co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial Number 09/703,056, entitled "System and Method for Router Central Arbitration," to co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial Number 09/703,038, entitled "System and Method for Router Data Aggregation and Delivery," to co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial Number 09/702,958, entitled "Timing and Synchronization for an IP Router Using an Optical Switch," issued March 23, 2004 as Patent No. 6,711,357, to co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial Number 09/703,027, entitled "Router Network Protection Using Multiple Facility Interfaces," to co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial Number 09/703,043, entitled "Router Line Card Protection Using One-for-N Redundancy" issued as Patent no. 6,879,559 on April 12, 2005, and to co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial Number 09/703,064, entitled "Router Switch Fabric Protection Using Forward Error Correction," issued as Patent No. 6,894,907 on May 17, 2005, all filed October 31, 2000, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning page 5, line 28, as follows:

Various aspects of the invention are described in co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial Number 09/703,057, entitled "System And Method For IP Router With an Optical Core," co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial Number 09/703,056, entitled "System and Method for Router Central Arbitration," co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial Number 09/703,038, entitled "System and Method for Router Data Aggregation and Delivery," co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial Number 09/702,958, entitled "Timing and Synchronization for an IP Router Using an Optical Switch," issued March 23, 2004 as Patent No. 6,711,357, co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial Number 09/703,087, entitled "Router Network Protection Using Multiple Facility Interfaces," co-pending and commonly assigned

U.S. Application Serial Number 09/703,043, issued as Patent no. 6,879,559 on April 12, 2005, entitled "Router Line Card Protection Using One-for-N Redundancy" and co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial Number 09/703,064, entitled "Router Switch Fabric Protection Using Forward Error Correction," issued as Patent No. 6,894,907 on May 17, 2005, all filed October 31, 2000, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1, as follows:

Fig.1 is a block diagram illustrating the flow of requests and grants between packet forwarding modules and the central arbiter and the flow of configuration information from the central arbiters to an optical switch fabric to prepare the optical switch planes properly for the next information chunk in a network router system (see U.S. Application Serial Number 09/703,057 and U.S. Application Serial Number 09/703,056 [59182-P002US-10020639], both cited above). In Fig. 1, each of N packet forwarding modules represented by PFM_s 14 and 15 contains an ingress ASIC represented by ASICs 16, 17, as well as other ASICS (not shown in Fig. 1). Ingress ASIC 16, 17 requests grants through arbiter interface modules (AIMs) 24 and 25 located within respective central arbiter shelves 12 and 13, designated as shelf 0 and shelf 1. Each AIM 24, 25 contains an Arbiter Interface ASIC 26, 27 (ARBI) which is connected to a central arbiter module (CAM) 20, 21 through respective links 136 and 137. CAMs 20 and 21 each contain a respective central arbiter ASIC (CARB) 22 and 23. CAMs 20 and 21 communicate configuration information to optical switch modules 28-1 through 28-6 and 29-1 through 29-6 through respective optical links 132 and 133. An optical switch fabric contains optical switch modules 28-1 through 28-6 and 29-1 through 29-6 organized into two optical switch planes 18 and 19, designated as plane 0 and plane 1, each containing six optical switch modules, each such switch module containing a respective optical switch ASIC 30-1 through 30-6 and 31-1 through 31-6.